

## **A report on developments with the Children of Peace Program at Igondola – just across the sandy river bed from the Amani Center**

The place of overflowing with children. Parents, committee and friends seem to have renewed lease of life. There is joy and thanksgiving.



That was evident in January when the ‘graduating’ preschoolers celebrated their entry into Primary School. This is an excellent preschool. They normally have a 100% pass rate as the children prepare for Primary School.

Now we have commenced the preschool year with a total of 98 children, and a few are still arriving for kindergarten.

This last Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the ninety eight children received their new uniforms. They were so proud of themselves. So were the parents who gathered with them. We are thankful to Hearts for Africa, Australia, the Foundation which pays the teachers, and to the Amani for Africa USA Foundation, Billings, Montana for the provision of the new uniforms for the graduating children, and for the present Kindergarten and preschool children. The graduation party was funded by their Children of Peace Committee and the parents.



Here are the present children in their new uniforms. Several new children have yet to receive them. In the background are some of the teachers, and the committee members.

The uniforms are all made locally. The business stays in the village.

The Saturday Primary School Program is also overflowing with children. The numbers have grown to the point that there are now 198 children attending! It makes one think of the Old Woman Who lived in the Shoe. But, our teachers and leaders do know what to do.

The children all have writing pads, pencils, crayons, play equipment – and Bible story books, and wonderful Bible story outlines to be coloured and taken home. These are a gift from a friend of mine in Billings, Montana. She is a catholic woman who has a love for children and love of the Lord, and simply wishes to spread that love wherever children may be found.

If you want to be inspired come and spend a few days with these children and their leaders.

Thankfully, through gifts from Australia and the USA we have four classrooms, this large open building, and office space. St. John’s is filled with the voices of children six days per week. The photo: day one, 2015.

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